Use of synthetic fibre bags by some public sector undertakings

@1305. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some public sector undertakings like, Food Corporation of India, Cement Corporation of India and Jute Corporation of India are using imported synthetic fibre bags instead of using jute bags made in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country is importing synthetic fibre bags worth crores of rupees for the purpose; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Pending cases in Supreme Court relating to prices of multi-national companies

1306. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in various High Courts and Supreme Court relating to pricing of drugs of multinational companies and other issues; and

(b) if so, steps being taken for speedy decision of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Steps taken to reduce pendency of cases which include these cases are given in the attached statement.*

@Previously Unstarred Question 785, transferred from the 3rd March, 1987.

Statement

Pending cases in Supreme Court relating to prices of drugs of multi-national companies

Steps taken from time to time to reduce pendency

The following steps have been taken in recent years to reduce pendency in the Supreme Court and High Courts:

1. Elimination of arrears in all the Courts has been discussed in the Conference of Chief Justices, Chief Ministers and Law Ministers of States held on 31st August—1st September 1985 and the Resolutions of the Conference have been commended to the High Courts and the State Governments.

2. The Code of Civil Procedure was amended in 1976 to abolish Letters Patents Appeals from judgement of Single Judge of the High Court in Second Appeal (vide Section 100-A).

3. The Code of Criminal Procedure based on the recommendations of the Law Commission was enacted in 1973.

4. Tht Judge strength of the Supreme Court has been raised from 17 to 25 (excluding the Chief Justice), with effect from 10-05-1986 by amending the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.

5. The Sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges has been increased from 351 in March 1977 to 441 as on 1st March 1987.

6. The Supreme Court has also taken the following measures:

(i) Priority is given to certain matters;

(ii) Miscellaneous matters are fixed daily;

(iii) Writ Petitions with identical questions are grouped together and batches running from 50 to 100 matters are listed together for hearing;